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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Bruce E. Kaskel
Serial No. : 09/765,957
Filed : January 19, 2001
Title : APPROXIMATING GRADIENTS WITH OFFSET MIDPOINTS

Art Unit : 2673
Examiner : Unknown

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Technology Center 2600

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A1 -- The three values that are computed are, maximum vertical error for point x_n (304), a speed factor a (306) and a next "x" value (x_{n+1}) (308). The speed factor a is equal to the error that was calculated for a given iteration minus the tolerance T divided by the derivative d where: --

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2 -- Thereafter, a check is made to determine if the absolute value of the speed factor a is greater than a fixed number (310). In one implementation, the fixed number is a small non-negative number, such as 0.0001. If the absolute value is greater, then a next x is selected (n is increased by 1 where x_{n+1} is selected closer to S_i) (312) and the process returns to step 304. Otherwise, the point (x_{n+1} , x_{n+1}^e) is recorded as the next segment point (314) and S_i (the prior segment point) is set as $x_n + 1$. In one implementation, the next "x" (x_{n+1}) is selected in

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